

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 DHA-02 /078 W

-----126638 291719Z /53

R 291455Z JUN 77

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9136

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IS, JO

SUBJECT: WEIZMAN VISIT TO WEST BANK

1. DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN'S FIRST VISIT TO WEST BANK CITIES OF HEBRON AND NABLUS ON JUNE 27 WAS WIDELY REPORTED IN ISRAELI AND ARABIC PRESS AND MEDIA. JERUSALEM POST QUOTED WEIZMAN AS SAYING IN HEBRON THAT "WE CAN LIVE IN THIS TOWN AND OTHER TOWNS AND FIND WAYS TO LIVE TOGETHER" WITH ARABS. HE REPORTEDLY PLEDGED TO DO HIS BEST TO NORMALIZE LIFE ON THE WEST BANK AND ECHOED HIS REMARKS UPON HIS ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE ON JUNE 22 THAT " WE WILL BE TOGETHER FOR MANY YEARS TO COME."

2. IN HEBRON, WEIZMAN MET MAYOR QAWASIMA AND OTHER LOCAL OFFICIALS AT MILITARY GOVERNOR'S OFFICE AND WAS TOLD OF TOWN'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND THE PROBLEM

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OF PRISONERS PARTICULARLY ADMINISTRATIVE DETAINEES. WEIZMAN THEN VISITED ABRAHAM'S TOMB (IBRAHIMI MOSQUE) AND ISRAELI SETTLEMENT OF KIRYAT ARBA WHERE, ACCORDING TO JERUSALEM POST, HE WAS ASKED TO INITIATE NEW DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, TO CANCEL THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT ORDER FORBIDDING SETTLERS TO BUY LAND FROM ARABS AND TO PERMIT SETTLERS TO OPEN JOINT BUSINESSES

WITH RESIDENTS OF HEBRON. POST REPORTS THAT WEIZMAN'S ATTITUDE TOWARD KIRYAT ARBA SETTLERS WAS "POSITIVE".

3. ARAB LANGUAGE PRESS OF JUNE 28 QUOTES FROM SEVERAL ARAB LEADERS REPORTED REMARKS TO WEIZMAN DURING HIS VISIT TO NABLUS. HIKMAT AL MASRI, NABLUS NOTABLE, IS REPORTED TO HAVE URGED THE GOI TO PERMIT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT WEST BANK/GAZA STATE SAYING THAT SUCH A STEP WOULD BE "A GOLDEN PAGE" IN ISRAEL'S HISTORY. FORMER MAYOR HAJ MA'-AZUZ AL MASRI POINTED OUT THE PROBLEMS OF THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION SUCH AS ADMINISTRATIVE DETAINEES, EXORBITANT FINES AND TAXES. MAYOR SHAKA' STRESSED THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF HAVING PEACE AND COOPERATION BETWEEN PALESTINIANS AND ISRAELIS AS LONG AS OCCUPATION EXISTED AND SAID THAT TENSION AND WARS IN THE REGION ARE BOUND TO CONTINUE UNTIL OCCUPATION CEASED.

4. BETHLEHEM MAYOR FREIJ COMMENTED TO CONGEN OFFICERS JUNE 27 THAT WEIZMAN, IN BOTH THE CASE OF HEBRON AND NABLUS MEETINGS, HAD SUMMONED THE LOCAL LEADERS TO THE MILITARY GOVERNOR'S HEADQUARTERS RATHER THAN CALLING ON THEM IN LOCAL MUNICIPAL OFFICES. (WEIZMAN PERSONALLY VISITED KIRYAT ARBA FOR LENGTHY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CLOSED MEETING.) HE CONTRASTED THIS WITH DAYAN'S VISIT TO BETHLEHEM CITY HALL AFTER FREIJ WAS FIRST ELECTED MAYOR IN EARLY 1970'S.

5. COMMENT: IN HIS FIRST CONTACTS WITH WEST BANKERS AFTER TAKING OVER AS DEFENSE MINISTER, WEIZMAN HAS LIVED UP TO HIS TOUGH IMAGE. HE HAS NOT HOWEVER ANNOUNCED ANY NEW STEPS OR SHIFTS IN POLICY TOWARD WEST BANKERS IN ANY SENSITIVE AREAS SUCH AS NEW SETTLEMENTS, RESTRICTION ON MOVEMENT, AID FROM ARAB STATES, OR PRACTICES AT RELIGIOUS SITES.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009